



International Writing Program Annual Report

International Writing Program

2018

International Writing Program 2018 annual report

University of Iowa International Writing Program

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the International Writing Program (IWP) is to promote mutual understanding by providing writers from every part of the world the necessary space, physical or imaginative, for creative work and collaboration in an intercultural setting.

Our mission is anchored in the values of freedom of expression and inclusiveness, and in the belief that creativity has the power to shape the world.

We execute this mission by building enduring creative communities, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue, and supporting writers at all stages of their careers.

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On the cover: Nigerian & American writer Chris Abani, IWP Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Visitor, reads for the public at Dey House on the University of Iowa campus in Sept., 2018.

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Iowa Public Radio's Ben Kiefer interviews Kateryna Babkina, 2018 IWP Fall Resident from Ukraine.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Greetings, friends,

I am pleased to present you with the 2018 Annual Report of the International Writing Program (IWP). The following pages detail the settings and innovative ways in which the IWP connected writers from around the world. From the Fall Residency, which brought distinguished writers from twenty-seven countries to the University of Iowa, to the tens of thousands of writers who participated in our Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), we shared some of the magic of living, studying, and writing in Iowa City, a UNESCO City of Literature. The results? Impressive, if we do say so ourselves. Many dozens of new poems, plays, short stories, novels, essays, and film scripts made their way onto the page, and we have no doubt that the conversations sparked here in what we like to call “the United Nations of Writers” will shape literary discourse for a long time to come.

We are profoundly grateful for the support that makes possible this wide variety of programs, which in their different ways not only bring us into closer contact with people from around the globe but help us to better understand

our place in the scheme of things. The IWP is known as “the world’s narrative nursery,” and our initiatives, the majority of which are supported jointly by the University of Iowa and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U. S. Department of State, inspire stories that are told around the world. What co-founder Paul Engle described as the craziest idea he had ever heard—an idea from the IWP’s other co-founder, Hualing Engle; namely, a writing program for writers from every land—has transformed the literary lives of writers and readers everywhere.

New IWP programs are on their way in 2019, including the Women’s Creative Mentorship Project for writers from Africa and South America; the Summer Institute for college-aged writers from the U.S., India, and Pakistan; and an expansion of Between the Lines, supported by a Building Bridges Islamic Arts grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. And we have no doubt that new ideas will spark ever more interesting connections and ways of thinking. After five decades of connecting writers, our journey has only just begun.

With gratitude,

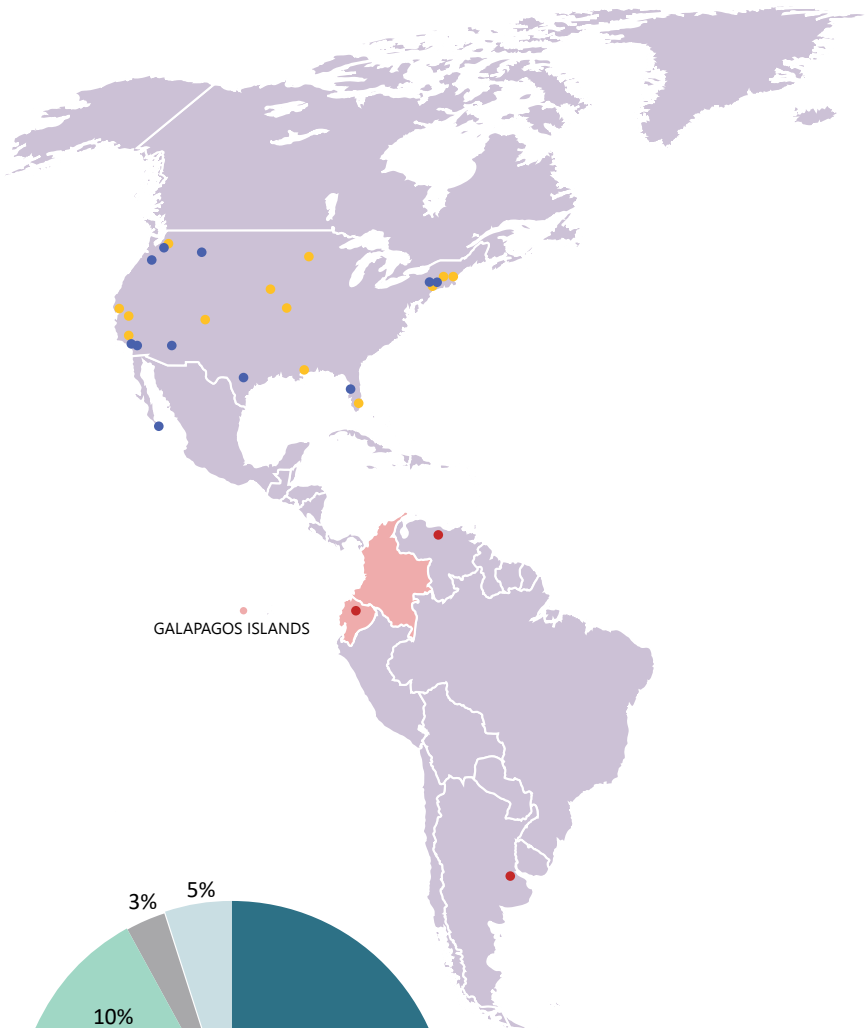
Christopher Merrill

IWP Director

Christopher Merrill, far right, listens as a student reads a piece written at an IWP writing workshop at Lincoln Corner, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

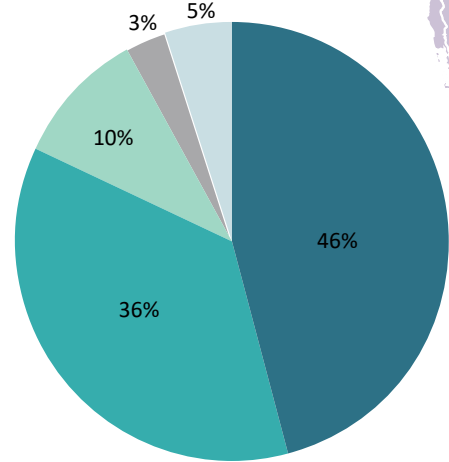
2018 IWP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- FALL RESIDENTS
- BETWEEN THE LINES PARTICIPANTS
- IWP DIRECTOR WRITING WORKSHOPS
- DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES AND OVERSEAS TOURS
 - WRITE FOR YOUR LIFE: TURNING TRAUMA INTO STORIES
 - "FAKE NEWS!": FACTS, INFORMATION, DISINFORMATION, MISINFORMATION
 - LINES AND SPACES AMERICAN AUTHORS ABROAD TOURS



2018 IWP SUPPORT

- THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
- GRANTS FROM THE U.S. STATE DEPT.
- PARTNER FUNDS AND PROGRAM FEES
- GRANTS (NON-U.S. GOVERNMENT)
- GIFTS TO THE IWP

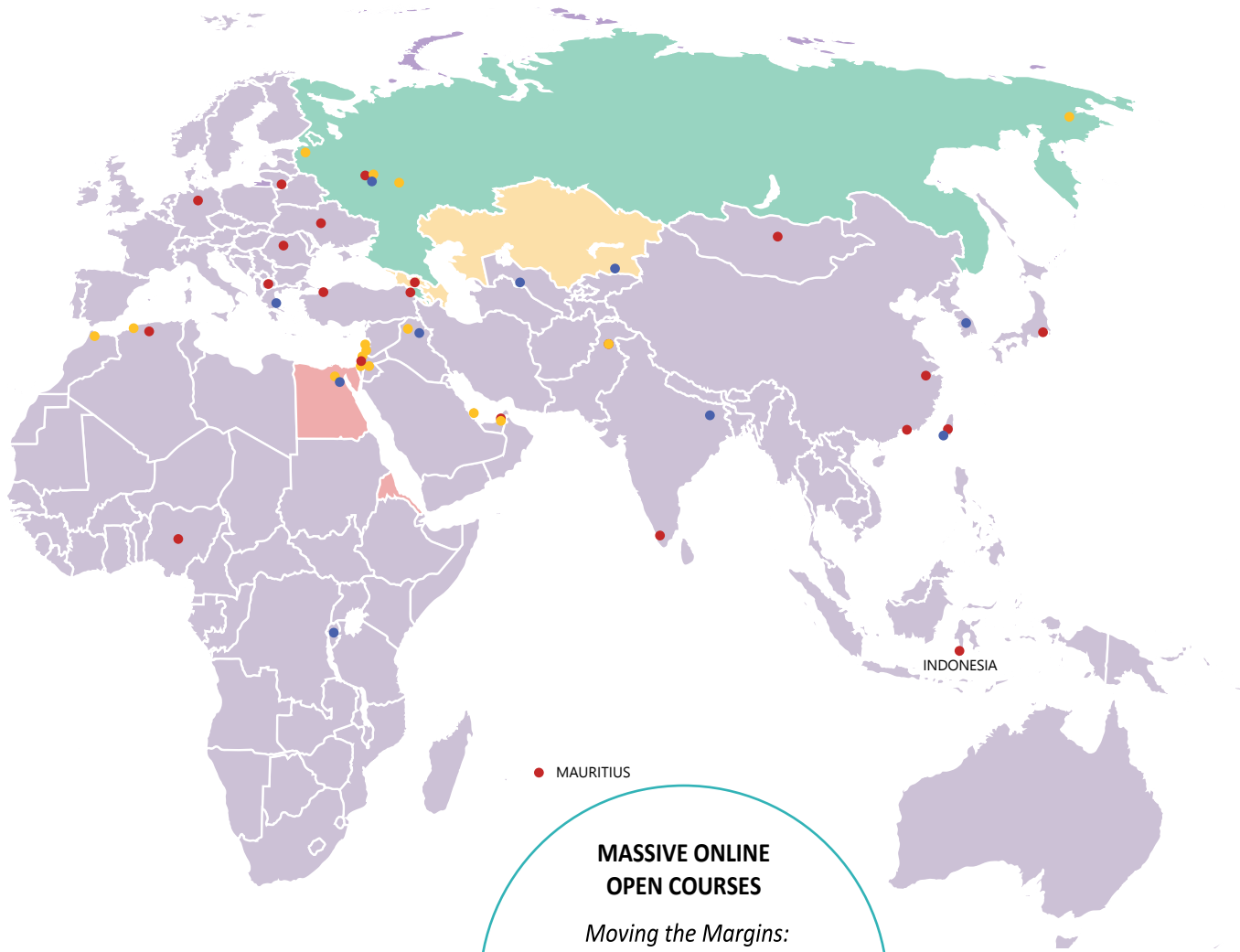
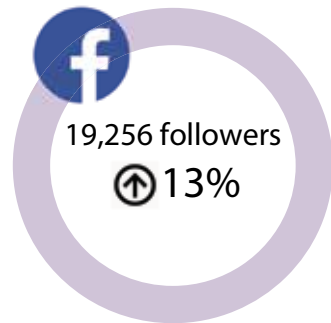
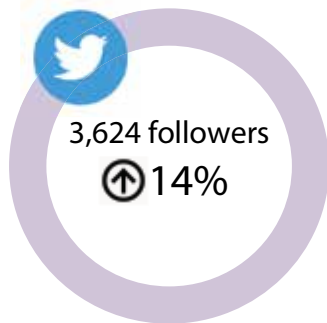
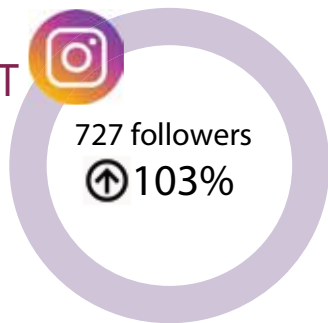


Percentages Based on Total 2018 Expenditures

@UIIWP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOWER COUNT

Dec. 2017 → Dec. 2018

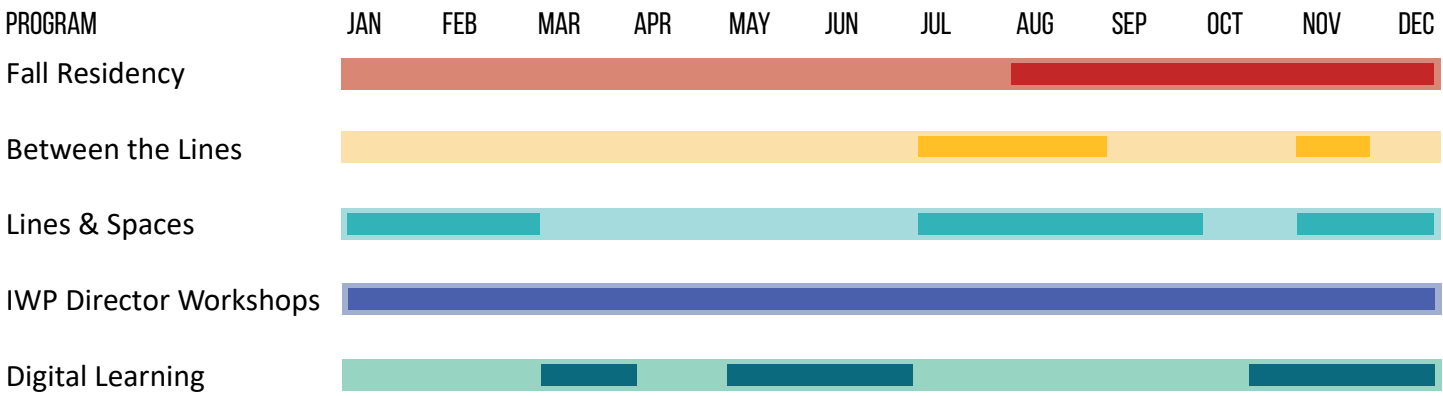


MASSIVE ONLINE OPEN COURSES

Moving the Margins: Fiction and Inclusion
10,747 participants worldwide

Stories of Place: Writing and the Natural World
8,587 participants worldwide

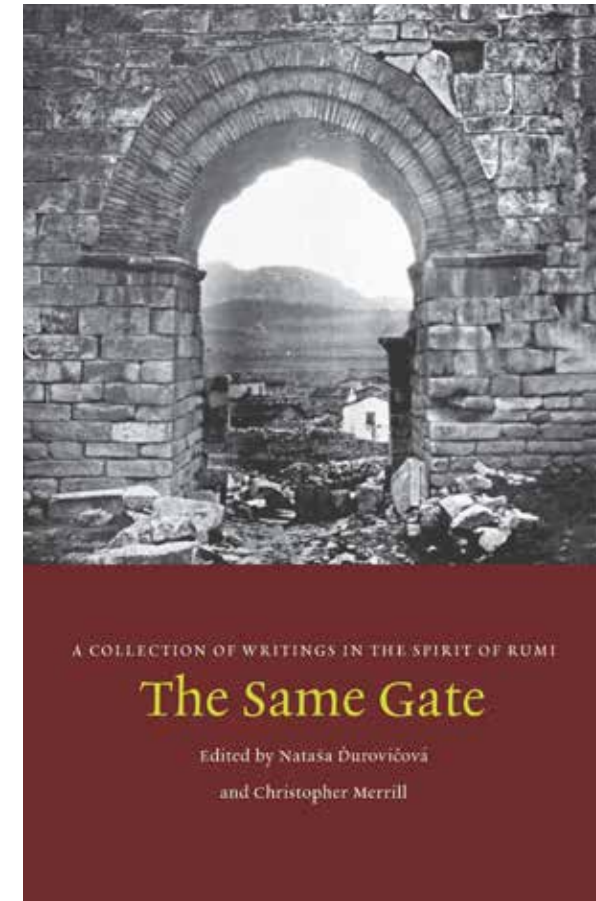
2018 IWP PROGRAM TIMELINE



2018 IWP PUBLICATIONS

In 2018, two new volumes captured, refined, and extended discussions from the IWP's international conferences:

Introduced by IWP Director Christopher Merrill, *The Same Gate: Writings in the Spirit of Rumi* (cover shown at right) gathers contributions from 16 participants in a 2013 IWP gathering in Konya, Turkey. The symposium, The Same Gate: A Poetic Exchange, focused on the ghazal form across literary traditions. Emanating from the Arabo-Persian linguistic realm, the ghazal was embraced by Sufi mystics, popularized across southern and western Asia, and, in the 20th century, innovated among English-writing poets. This wide historical and cultural span is well visible in the collection's table of contents. Here an essay on translating the ghazal's rigorous rhyming structure into English



Top: Rumi's travels, concluding in Konya, Turkey, in the 13th century. Bottom: IWP gathered writers in Konya in the spirit of Rumi in 2013. Find more, including videos, at: bit.ly/SameGconf



is met by new English-language ghazals; an essay describing the landscapes of eastern Turkey where Rumi lived and was buried is in conversation with that of a Muslim feminist surveying the same landscape and writings, but through a different lens. Poems and aphorisms by writers in the mystic lineage can be read alongside more scholarly pieces on Rumi's poetics by literary critics from Afghanistan and Iran, whose critical vocabulary and modes of commentary are less known to us. The volume was published by Autumn Hill Books in the 91st Meridian Books series. Find it at: bit.ly/SameGate

In a similar vein, the electronic collection *To What Do I Belong? Traversing Differences, Bridging Narratives* (available for free downloading at bit.ly/whatdoibelong) is the result of a 2017 IWP symposium held in Tangier, Morocco. The prompt to the ten writers from twelve countries was urgent, and not easy: How do forms of writing transpose private narratives of belonging into public discourse —and how to respond to the rampant dissatisfaction with models of belonging so present everywhere in public discourses? The essays, submitted as draft statements before the conference and revised in its wake, take off from autobiographical coordinates; their “competing” stories of belonging, inclusion, and exclusion, of course, differ vastly. Read together, the pieces in the volume refract clichés of identity so common in current debates, and sometimes ask hard questions right back. — Nataša Durovičová, IWP Editor

NEW IWP PROJECTS BEGINNING IN 2019



Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (right, IWP Fall Resident '05 & '17, Kenya) is a mentor in IWP's inaugural Women's Creative Mentorship Project.

WOMEN'S CREATIVE MENTORSHIP PROJECT

In 2019, the IWP is proud to launch the Women's Creative Mentorship Project (WCM). This project focuses on mentorship between young, emerging female writers, and female IWP Fall Residency alumni from the mentees' home countries.

The inaugural WCM project kicks off with a four-day in-person conference in Portland, Oregon, followed by a six-month distance collaboration. This initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

BETWEEN THE LINES (BTL) EXPANSION

Starting in 2019, BTL (more on page 24) will add a second annual summer session – Between the Lines: Identity and Belonging. This addition is supported through grant funds provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art's Building Bridges Program and is free for participants.

BTL: Identity & Belonging brings U.S.-based Mus-

lim and non-Muslim teens to the UI for a rigorous curriculum of seminars, workshops, and special events. For two weeks in the summer, Muslim and non-Muslim students live as roommates in a UI residence hall, share meals together, and embark on an exciting exploration of creative writing, literature, and intercultural exchange. BTL applications for students from the U.S. and a selection of countries will open in early 2020.

SUMMER INSTITUTE (SI)

Funded by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, the SI is a free creative writing and cultural exchange program for participants age 18-22 from Pakistan, India, and the U.S.

Each summer, thirty future thought-leaders from all disciplines—the arts, humanities, sciences, and everything in between—will travel to Iowa City and the UI campus for two weeks of immersion in the power of narrative. Through the SI's innovative cross-cultural approach, participants will come to see writing as a form of action. SI will accept applications for students from the U.S., India, and Pakistan in early 2020.

IWP-INSPIRED YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth programming has proven to be some of our most impactful work, with participants leaving Iowa inspired to write and share their experiences. Our Between the Lines youth program (more about it on page 24) has become a model for several programs abroad, created and run by IWP alumni. Below are just a few of these successful projects. – *Kelly Bedeian, IWP Senior Program Officer*



THE OLIVE WRITERS - MOROCCO

is a creative writing program for young Moroccan writers age 16-21. The 6-day intensive writing residency in Casablanca is led by international writers from Morocco, Egypt, Britain, and the U.S. Per Mohammed Wahabi (BTL '15): "I was engrossed in a dream, that later on became a haunting obsession, to set up a local 'Between the Lines' for all those magnificent souls who couldn't make it." olivewriters.org

Founder and Director of The Olive Writers: **Mohammed Wahabi (BTL '15, Morocco)**



WRITE IN ARMENIA INTERNATIONAL WRITING CAMP

is an extensive, ten-day creative writing program for young writers to learn from and about each other. The syllabus of the camp was developed in cooperation with the IWP, based on the BTL model. The program consists of writing sessions and lectures on literature and other creative disciplines, sessions on photography, video, and onstage performances, playwriting, slam poetry, team building and communication exercises, readings, group discussions, cultural tours, and a lot of fun. The 2018 program included young writers from Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. writeinarmenia.org

Founder and Director of Write in Armenia: **Arevik Ashkharoyan (BTL Chaperone '15, Armenia)**



THE ALGERIAN WRITING PROGRAM

provides intensive creative writing training for emerging young writers with global literature seminars and language-specific creative writing workshops conducted in English, French, and Arabic. The project will offer a platform to publish, share, and learn to affect people through writing. The organizers hope the program will reflect the entire Algerian society, regardless of gender or age, and inspire all to write, to read, to strive to understand, and to appreciate literature. facebook.com/AlgerianWritingProgram

Founder and Director of the Algerian Writing Program: **Lina Baaziz (BTL '17, Algeria)**

FALL RESIDENCY



Founded in 1967 as a “United Nations of Writers,” the Fall Residency remains a one-of-a-kind forum for bringing together literary artists from around the world. This past year brought twenty-eight writers from twenty-seven countries to Iowa City, with over 150 public readings, lectures, panels, performances, and classroom visits. In the pages that follow you’ll glimpse the tremendous talent and open-hearted curiosity that makes the Fall Residency hum with collaborative possibility and cultural exchange.

The 2018 Fall Residency was the work of scores of community partners who brought their own love of literature to the writers’ twelve weeks in the U.S. At a time when many U.S. citizens are particularly concerned about questions of equality, empowerment, and freedom of expression, the Fall Residency strives to model a peaceful pluralism. Through art, translation, dialogue, home hosting, field trips, and other dynamic opportunities, the Fall Residency created hundreds of new community connections grounded in mutual respect.

— Saunia Powell, IWP Fall Residency Coordinator



Left: Residents at the Fall Residency Opening Party. Right: Resident Rumena Bužarovska (Macedonia) reading at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.



Resident Amara Nicole Okolo (Nigeria) on the University of Iowa campus.

2018 FALL RESIDENCY – CALENDAR OF EVENTS OVERVIEW

August 18 Arrival in Iowa City	August 29 IWP Reading in Spanish, Prairie Lights Books	September 21-23 Jazz Poetry Festival, City of Asylum, Pittsburgh, PA	October 3 Presentations at UI Senior College
August 19 Walking tour of Iowa City	August 31 Iowa City Public Library Panel Discussion (weekly hereafter) IWP’s Shambaugh House Reading (weekly hereafter)	September 25-28 Mid-Residency group travel to Seattle, WA, and New Orleans, LA	October 5-6 Iowa City Book Festival reception and panel discussions
August 20-23 Fall Residency Orientation		September 26 Workshops and readings at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts High School Workshops and readings at Hugo House in Seattle	October 8-12 Residents observe UI Undergraduate Creative Writing 101 Classes
August 20 Fall Residency Opening Party Interviews with Iowa Public Radio’s River to River program	September 4-6 Residency group travel to Chicago, IL		October 9 Presentations and reception at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
August 24 Translation Workshop (weekly hereafter)	September 8 Reception with UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies	September 27 Panel, readings, and reception at the University of New Orleans Reading at Elliot Bay Book Company in Seattle	October 10 Horace Mann Elementary School visit, Iowa City, IA Reading at the Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA
August 25 Iowa City Farmers’ Market IWP & UI MFA Mixer	September 10 Class visits and readings at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA Reading by IWP Visitor Steven Bradbury	September 28 Class visit to Seattle University	October 11 Presentations at International Women’s Club, Iowa City Presentation at Iowa City Foreign Relations Council IWP guest-lecture at UI Creative Writing class
August 26 Prairie Lights Books Reading (weekly hereafter), Iowa City IWP Cinematheque (Resident-selected films from their home countries) (weekly hereafter)	September 13 Global Express performance (UI Theatre Department collaboration)	September 29 Secrest Octagonal Barn Party & Potluck, West Liberty, IA	October 12 Pedagogy Coffee with UI Creative Writing Faculty and TAs
August 27 Resident presentations at International Literature Today UI Class (weekly hereafter)	September 17-20 Events featuring IWP Visitor Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor Chris Abani	September 30 UI English Department Reception	October 13 Picnic at Dane Family Farm, Iowa City
	September 19 UI African Studies Roundtable Discussion	October 2 Class visits and readings at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA	



The Fall Residents introduce themselves to the public at the Opening Party.



Top: UI African Studies Roundtable Discussion with Chris Abani. Bottom: Takiguchi Yūshō writes while traveling.

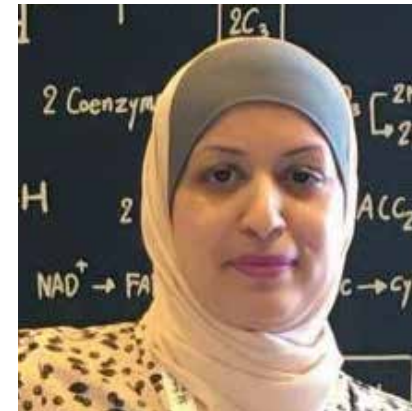
October 16 UI French Department forum UI Japanese Program reading Reading at Oaknoll Senior Living Center, Iowa City	October 18 Class visits and panel at Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA	October 25 UI South Asian Studies Program lecture on Dalit literature IWP guest lecture at UI Creative Writing class Theatrical performance of Umar Timol’s work (UI Theatre Department collaboration)	October 28 Residency Closing Party
October 17 Presentations at UI Senior College Truman Capote Prize Ceremony with Robert Hass Reading and reception with UI Non-Fiction MFA Program	October 20 Group daytrip to Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harper’s Ferry, IA	October 26 What We Saw: Images of America – reflections by Residents, Iowa City Public Library Page/Stage performance (UI Dance Department collaboration)	October 29-30 Portland Stage Company collaboration performance, Portland, ME
	October 23-November 30 Projections of Residents’ writing on Iowa City buildings (collaboration with Iowa City Downtown District) – See p. 16	October 31-November 3 Group travel to Washington, D.C.	
	October 24 West High School visit, Iowa City UI Translation MFA panel discussion UI Senior College special screening of Eman AIYousuf’s film	November 2 Reading at the Library of Congress	
		November 3-6 Group travel to New York City, NY	
		November 3 Poets House Reading, Manhattan, NY Unnameable Books Reading, Brooklyn, NY	

PROJECTIONS PROJECT

Writing by the Fall Residents, in both English and their mother languages, was projected on Iowa City buildings Oct. 23-Nov. 30, a new collaboration with the Iowa City Downtown District.

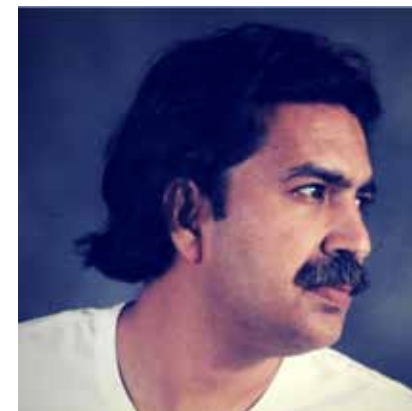
RESIDENTS' WRITING

To read samples of the Fall Residents' work, visit: bit.ly/31Nj49T



HAIFA ABU AL-NADI

(fiction writer, screenwriter, translator; Jordan) teaches English at the Applied Sciences University in Amman, and translates for the Kalima and Al-Qattan foundations. Author of screenplays and magazine articles, in 2012 she published the volume of stories *ملحلا قبهأ يلع* [On the Threshold of Dreaming] and, in 2016, the collection *تادوارم* [Propositions]. She participated in the IWP Fall Residency courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



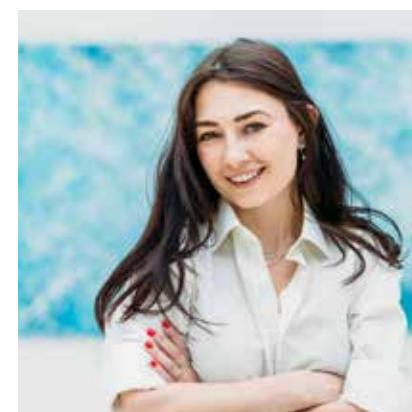
USMAN ALI

(playwright; Pakistan) researches physical and non-verbal theater, and is the founder of Ali's Theatre at the Mandibhaudhin campus of the University of Sargodha. His English-language plays *The Prisoners*, *The Guilt*, *The Last Metaphor*, *The Odyssey*, *The Breath*, and *The Flute* have been published and performed in Pakistan, with three upcoming runs at the Royal Court Theatre in London. In 2014 he received the Taufiq Rafat Prize for Drama. He participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.



EMAN ALYOUSUF فسويلا ناميا م

(fiction writer, journalist; United Arab Emirates), a chemical engineer by training, is the author of three short story anthologies and three novels; *Haris al-Shams* [The Sun's Guardian] won the 2016 Emirates Novel Awards. Her short film *Ghafa* was screened at the 2017 Dubai International Film Festival. A columnist and editor at *AlRoeya* newspaper, she has published a collection of interviews with female Emirati writers, and promotes literary culture at home and abroad. She participated courtesy of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



KATERYNA BABKINA КАТЕРИНА БАБКІНА

(fiction writer, poet, playwright; Ukraine) published her first book at age 17. Since then, she has authored three story collections, four volumes of poetry and two novels, with translations into 12 languages. Sonia was shortlisted for the 2013 BBC Book of the Year; three of her screenplays have been made into films, including *Зло* [Evil] and *Жовта коробочка* [The Yellow Box]. Her children's book *Шапочка і кум* [Cappy and the Whale], a commercial success, raised funds for pediatric cancer. babkina.com.ua She participated courtesy of the Paul and Hualing Engle Fund.



SALAH BADIS سي داب حالص
(poet, translator, journalist; Algeria) is a founding member of *Nafha* magazine, a journalist and music editor, and a musical and cultural researcher for print and radio. Salah's first poetry volume, رخاوبلار جض [Ship Weariness], was published in 2016. His poems and essays have been translated into English, French, and Turkish.

He participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.



BAYASGALAN BATSUURI БАЯСГАЛАН БАТСУУРИЙН
(poet, translator; Mongolia) has published 12 books of translation from English to Mongolian. Her English-language poetry collection *Rain of the 13th Month* came out in 2009; her poetry is widely anthologized. The founder of the publishing house Tagtaa, which aims to broaden gender representation in literature, in 2017 she was named Best Cultural Professional by the Minister of Education, Culture, and Science.
bayasgaland.blogspot.com tagtaa.mn

She participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.



YAMILA BÊGNÉ
(fiction writer; Argentina), a teacher of creative writing, is the author of three experimental story anthologies, most recently *Los límites del control* [Limits of Control] (2017) and a non-fiction writer. A recipient of a 2006 Letters and Illustration award from the Ministry of Culture in Buenos Aires, in 2017 she attended a CUNY residency on a Néstor Sánchez Grant.

She participated courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires.



ADRIANA BORJA ENRÍQUEZ
(fiction writer, poet; Ecuador) works as a psychologist, with a focus on human rights, gender-based violence, and refugee rights. Her short stories and poetry have been widely anthologized in South America and Europe. A winner of the International Poetry and Theater Castello di Duino Competition in 2013 and 2017, she has also received awards from the House of Ecuadorian Culture and elsewhere.
aborjaenriquez.blogspot.com

Borja Enríquez participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.



RUMENA BUŽAROVSKA
(fiction writer, editor, translator; Macedonia) has three books of fiction published and translated into several languages. Her story collection *Mojot Maž*, which won the Edo Budiša Award for Best Short Story Collection in 2016, will in 2019 appear from Dalkey Press as *My Husband*. A scholar, she is also an activist on behalf of marginalized populations in Macedonia. In 2016, Literary Europe Live named her one of Ten New Voices from Europe.

She participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.



CAI TIANXIN 蔡天新
(poet, essayist; China) is a professor of mathematics at Zhejiang University and the author of some 30 books of poetry, essays, and mathematics texts in China and abroad, including *Every Cloud Has Its Own Name* (2017) and *Antologia Poetica* (2014). A translator and editor of several poetry anthologies, he is the winner of the 2013 Naji Naaman Poetry Award (Beirut) and the 2017 National Award of Science and Technology (Beijing) for his book of essays [Mathematical Legends].

His participation was made possible by the Paul and Hualing Engle Fund.



CHOW HON-FAI (BOHEMIA) 周漢輝
(prose writer, poet; Hong Kong) received the 2014 Award for Creative Writing in Chinese for poetry, the 35th Youth Literary Award for Poetry in Hong Kong, the Lee Shing Wah Prize, and the Young Artist Award from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, recognizing his experiments with form, sound, and image. His first book was the poetry collection [Long Takes] (2010); a second volume is forthcoming.

His participation was made possible by the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation.



GINA COLE
(fiction writer, poet; New Zealand) is the author of *Black Ice Matter*, which won Best First Book of Fiction at the 2017 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards, and the winner of the 2014 Auckland Pride Festival's creative writing competition for the poem "Airport Aubade"; her work is widely anthologized. She was keynote speaker at the 2017 Auckland Writers Festival and the Same Same But Different LGBTQIA+ Writing Festival. A barrister, she specializes in family law.

Her participation was made possible by Creative New Zealand.



DAN COMAN

(fiction writer, poet; Romania) has published four books of poems and three novels. Winner of the 2004 Mihai Eminescu Award for the poetry collection *anul cârțiței galbene* [The Year of the Yellow Mole], Coman has also received the 2004 Romanian Writers Union Prize, the 2011 Crystal Vilenica Prize, and Radio Romania's Cultural Awards for 2011 and 2017. His work has been anthologized, and translated into seven languages, English included.

His participation was made possible by the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest.



ROBERTO ECHETO

(poet, fiction writer, essayist; Venezuela) has published three story anthologies, a novel, and two books of essays. A founding member and faculty at the Instituto de Creatividad y Comunicación in Caracas, he writes and edits for journals, produces for radio, and writes scripts. In 2015 Echeto won the mixed-media contest Concurso Transgenérico from Cultura Urbana for *Maniobras elementales* [Elementary Maneuvers]. robertoecheto.blogspot.com

He participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



ALISA GANIEVA АЛИСАГ АНИЕВА

(fiction writer, editor, critic, journalist; Russia) is the author of three books, including the novels *Жених и невеста* (2015), shortlisted for the Russian Booker, which appeared in English as *Bride and Groom*, and *Праздничная гора* (2012) shortlisted for the Yasnaya Polyana literary prize (the English version is *The Mountain and the Wall*). Her story collection *Салам тебе, Далгат!* [Salaam, Dalgat!] won the 2009 Debut Prize, to controversy and acclaim. In 2017, Ganieva was a juror for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature.

A 2012 IWP Resident, she returns to the IWP Fall Residency courtesy of Grinnell College.



JACQUELINE GOLDBERG

(poet, fiction writer, essayist, journalist; Venezuela) is the author of six books of prose, 10 children's books, and 20 volumes of poetry. Her novel *Las horas claras* [The Clear Hours] received the 2012 prize of Fundación para la Cultura Urbana, was the Venezuelan Booksellers' Book of the Year, a finalist for the Critic's Award Novel for 2013, and was re-published in Mexico in 2018. Goldberg frequently speaks at literature and at food festivals.

Her participation was made possible by the U.S. Embassy in Caracas.



TEHILA HAKIMI תהילה חכימי

(poet, fiction writer; Israel) writes poetry, fiction and graphic novels. Her poetry volume *מחר נעבוד* [We'll Work Tomorrow] (2014) received the 2015 Bernstein Prize for Literature, and, alongside her graphic novel *במים* [In the Water], the Yehoshua Rabinowitz Foundation Prize for Literature. Hakimi received the 2014 Israeli Ministry of Culture Prize for Emerging Poets. She works as a mechanical engineer.

Her participation was made possible by the United States-Israel Educational Foundation.



HUANG CHONG-KAI 黃崇凱

(fiction writer; Taiwan) is the author of four novels including *黃色小說* [Blue Fiction] (2014), voted one of the Ten Best Books of The Year by The China Times Book Review, and *文藝春秋* [The Contents of the Times] (2017), winner of the 2018 TIBE Book Prize for Fiction, and one of Mirror Media Review's Ten Best Books of 2017. He is a member of *字母會* [Alphabet Lab], a collective of experimental writers and critical theorists in Taiwan.

Huang's participation was made possible by the Taiwan Ministry of Culture.



AUŠRA KAZILIŪNAITĖ

(poet, performance artist, journalist; Lithuania) is the author of four volumes of poetry: in 2018, *The Moon is a Pill* appeared in English. Kaziliūnaite's poems appeared in *How the Earth Carries Us: New Lithuanian Poets* (2017) and *New Baltic Poetry Anthology* (2018), and have been translated into many other languages. She is the recipient of several national awards, including, in 2016, the Young Artist Prize from Lithuania's Ministry of Culture.

She participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.



RASHA KHAYAT

(fiction writer, translator; Germany) is the author of the novel *Wir längst woanders sind* [For We Are Elsewhere Now] which has been nominated for the 2016 Klaus Michael Kühne Prize for best first novel, and translated into French and Arabic. A recipient of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation Fellowship, the Robert Bosch Foundation's Research Fellowship, and the Siegfried-Lenz Fellowship, she also writes for the theater and newspapers, mainly on multiculturalism. Her blog serves as a window into the Arab world for native Germans.

westoestlichediva.com

She participated courtesy of the Max Kade Foundation.



BEJAN MATUR

(**poet, non-fiction writer; Turkey**), of Kurdish origin, lives in İstanbul. Her first collection of poetry, *Rüzgar dolu konaklar* [Winds Howl through the Mansions] (1996), won several literary prizes. Since then she has published eight other poetry collections, most recently *Aşk olmayan* [Love/less] (2016); her poems are widely translated. In addition to her years as a columnist, she has worked with NGOs on conflict resolution. bejanmatur.com

Her participation was made possible by an anonymous gift to IWP.



FAISAL ODDANG

(**fiction writer, poet, essayist; Indonesia**) is the author of three novels and two poetry anthologies. *Puya ke puya* [From One Heaven to Another] won the 2014 Jakarta Art Council novel competition, and in 2015 *Tempo Magazine's* Best Novel prize. His other awards include ASEAN Young Writers Award, Prose Writer of the Year (*Tempo Magazine*, 2015), and Best Short Story Writers (*Kompas Daily*, 2014). He is now at work on a translation of the Sulawesi epic *La Galigo*.

He participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



AMARA NICOLE OKOLO

(**fiction writer, non-fiction writer; Nigeria**) is the author of the novel *Black Sparkle Romance* (2014) and the story collection *Son of Man* (2016). A participant in Chimamanda Adichie's Farafina Creative Writing Workshop (2015) and the Invisible Borders TransAfrican Project (2017), she often speaks at book events and festivals. She is also a practicing lawyer.

Her participation was made possible by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.



ARAM PACHYAN ԱՐԱՄ ՊԱԳՅԱՆ

(**fiction writer, essayist; Armenia**) is the author of story collections *Ռոբինզոն* [Robinson] (2011) and *Օվկիանոս* [Ocean] (2014). His novel *Յո՛ղա՛յանն, ծի՛ր* [Goodbye, Bird] (2012) has been translated into English, with French, Bulgarian, Arabic, and Georgian editions forthcoming, and was staged at the Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art; his fiction has been set to music. In 2010, Pachyan received the Presidential Prize for his short stories.

His participation was made possible by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.



IVA PEZUASHVILI

(**novelist, screenwriter, filmmaker; Georgia**) is the author of two story collections, most recently [The Book of Tbilisi] (2017). A filmmaker by training, he has written and/or directed a number of short films, animated series, and season-long TV dramas. The recipient of several awards, most recently he was the “best nominee” for the Tsinandali Best Prose Prize.

His participation was made possible by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



CHANDRAMOHAN SATHYANATHAN

(**poet; India**) is the author of poetry collections *Warscape Verses* (2014) and *Letters to Namdeo Dhasal* (2016), shortlisted for Srinivas Rayaprol Poetry Prize and the Harish Govind Memorial Prize. Sathyanathan coordinates English-language poetry readings in Kerala as well as a subaltern cultural collective there; in 2016 *Outlook Magazine* listed him as Dalit Achiever of the Year.

He participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State.



TAKIGUCHI YŪSHŌ 滝口悠生

(**fiction writer, Japan**) writes stories about individual and collective memory, marked by a roaming, omniscient narrative voice and multiple temporalities. His novella *Resonance* (Gakki) won the 2011 Shincho Prize for New Writers; in 2015, his novella *The Jimi Hendrix Experience* was nominated for the Akutagawa Prize; in 2016 Takiguchi won that award for *The Unceasing* (Shinde inai mono).

His participation was made possible by an endowed gift from William B. Quarton.



UMAR TIMOL

(**poet, fiction writer; Mauritius**) is the author of four poetry volumes, two novels, and two comic books; his poetry collection *52 Fragments pour l'aimée* [52 Fragments for the Beloved] (2016) received the Poetry Prize at the Moldova Poetry Festival. Timol is a teacher, photographer, founding member of the mixed-genre journal Point Barre, and a frequent presence at poetry festivals.

His participation was made possible by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

BETWEEN THE LINES



In 2018, thirty-six students from the U.S., Russia, the Middle East, and North Africa came together in Iowa City, Iowa, for Between the Lines (BTL), the IWP's intercultural and creative writing camp for teens age 15-18. For two weeks, these students engaged in a rigorous curriculum of literature seminars, creative writing workshops, and special events including an open-mic night, a filmmaking workshop, and hiking and swimming at nearby Lake Macbride State Park. The students lived as roommates in a UI residence hall, shared every meal together, and – with acclaimed international authors as their teachers, and camp counselors trained to guide homesick youth through conflict resolution as their mentors and guides – embarked on an exciting exploration of creative writing, literature, and intercultural exchange.

Our 2018 session was the first in the program's ten-year history in which all class sessions were taught in English, a change made to open the program to participants from a more diverse selection of countries along the historic Silk Road. With this in mind, program coordinators and instructors took particular care to encourage conversation about language, translation, and the inherent power dynamics present in both. For example, “The Translated

Self: Writing, Identity, and Language,” a special workshop led by MFA candidate of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program Aracely Mondragon, encouraged students to explore language, power, and identity formation via creative writing and excerpts of multilingual work.

This year we also added a new “Beyond BTL” alumni writing contest to continue to foster a love for cross-border cultural and creative exchange within our participants. Our inaugural BTL Alumni Writing Contest received over 60 outstanding submissions from all over the globe. (Read the finalist and winning pieces at: bit.ly/BTLAContest.) The contest was judged by a panel of IWP Fall Residents, including Amara Nicole Okolo (Nigeria), Kateryna Babkina (Ukraine), Salah Badis (Algeria), Eman AlYousuf (U.A.E.), Chandramohan Sathyanathan (India), and Iva Pezuashvili (Georgia), as well as IWP Editor Nataša Đurovičová. The two contest winners later met up with the Fall Residents on a literary trip to Washington, D.C., where they attended the Fall Residents' reading at the Library of Congress, toured the State Department, and shared meals with the Fall Residents, making creative contacts lasting beyond the trip's duration. – *Katie Prout, IWP Youth Programs Coordinator*

BTL ALUMNI WRITING CONTEST WINNERS:

Read the work of the two contest winners and six finalists at: bit.ly/BTLAContest



ZAIN-MINKAH MURDOCK
(BTL '17, U.S.) is an 18-year old Jamaican-American poet majoring in creative writing at Columbia University. She strongly believes in James Baldwin, New York pizza, em-dashes, BTS, her succulent Alex, and – most importantly – love. She also believes that literature acts as both a mirror and a window into the human condition.



YAZAN OMARI
(BTL '14, Jordan) is a Jordanian poet and doctor-to-be with writing as his passion and medicine as his profession, giving him perspective and understanding about human nature and behavior. Yazan’s goal is to be happy: he believes that whatever you do and become, inner peace is the main reason for your life. His code of conduct is the first sentence of the Hippocratic Oath: “Do no harm.”

2018 BTL PARTICIPANTS:

- Lydia ABEDEEN, U.S.
- Ruba AHMED, Bahrain
- Fatima ALARYANI, United Arab Emirates
- Nataliia BABASHKINA, Russia
- Sarah BENABDELLAH, Algeria
- Alexander CANLAS, U.S.
- Isabella CAYETANO, U.S.
- Maria DUDENKOVA, U.S.
- Zhanna DYAKONOVA, Russia
- Sofia EFREMOVA, Russia
- Doha EL JERRARI, Morocco
- Abdelrahman ELTAGER, Egypt

- Rastiyar HASHIM, Iraq
- Ramez HAYEK, Palestinian Territories
- Hanna HORN, Russia
- Shri IYENGAR, U.S.
- Kavya JAIN, U.S.
- Charlie KELLEY-PEGG, U.S.
- Julia LARKIN, U.S.
- Sara MAKAHLEH, Jordan
- Michael MCCARTHY, U.S.
- Logan METZGER, U.S.
- Sofya MOKROUSOVA, Russia
- Gili NAGGAR, Israel

- Ivan PEL, Russia
- Aleksandr RAMZAI, Russia
- Jack REDING, U.S.
- Kaila ROBERTSON, U.S.
- Sofia SCHUMAKER, U.S.
- Tanya SHEHAB, Lebanon
- Ameed SHEHAYEB, Lebanon
- Alice SILVA, U.S.
- Pavel STASHCHUK, Russia
- Sophie SWAN, U.S.
- Angelina TARLOVSKAIA, Russia
- Halima ZHAGBIB, Algeria



DIGITAL LEARNING



From left: Dimple Shah (Hong Kong/Mumbai, India), Beth Buechler (Granger, Indiana, U.S.), and Matt Hendryx (Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.), part of a group of writers who met through IWP MOOCs in 2014, email bi-weekly, and made a pilgrimage to IWP's Shambaugh House in 2018.

The IWP draws together globally-remote participants through digital technology. In 2018, the IWP's Digital Learning Creative Writing Program (DL) designed and implemented four courses to build creative economies, promote women's empowerment, and counter disinformation, all via free courses accessed online. Two of these were Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs), totaling over 19,000 participants from around the world. The other two digital courses were smaller-scale, region-specific outreach classes, with 30 participants in each (one for participants from Russia and Armenia; the other for Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Kazakhstan). Course materials from a previous MOOC, *How Writers Write Fiction: Storied Women*, were distributed during IWP Lines & Spaces tours in Egypt, Eritrea, and Rwanda, and translated into Spanish and shared on tours in Colombia and Ecuador (see p. 30) – available at distancelearningiwp.org.

DL employs the latest creative writing pedagogies, applying best practices for online instruction and virtual course design, in the process creating new communities, where disparate voices come together. Our goal is to involve participants from other IWP exchanges, and to encourage diversity and inclusion, gender and civic awareness, and to allow for cultural and regional emphasis.

DL MOOCs often feature work by IWP Fall Residency alumni: their texts appear in syllabi; we share

2018 DL COURSES:

**MOOC – Moving the Margins:
Fiction and Inclusion**

Participants: 10,747 worldwide

**MOOC – Stories of Place:
Writing and the Natural World**

Participants: 8,587 worldwide

**Outreach Course – Write for Your Life:
Turning Trauma into Stories**

Participants: 30 from Russia
and Armenia

**Outreach Course – “Fake News!” Facts,
Information, Disinformation, Misinformation**

Participants: 30 from Azerbaijan,
Georgia, and Kazakhstan

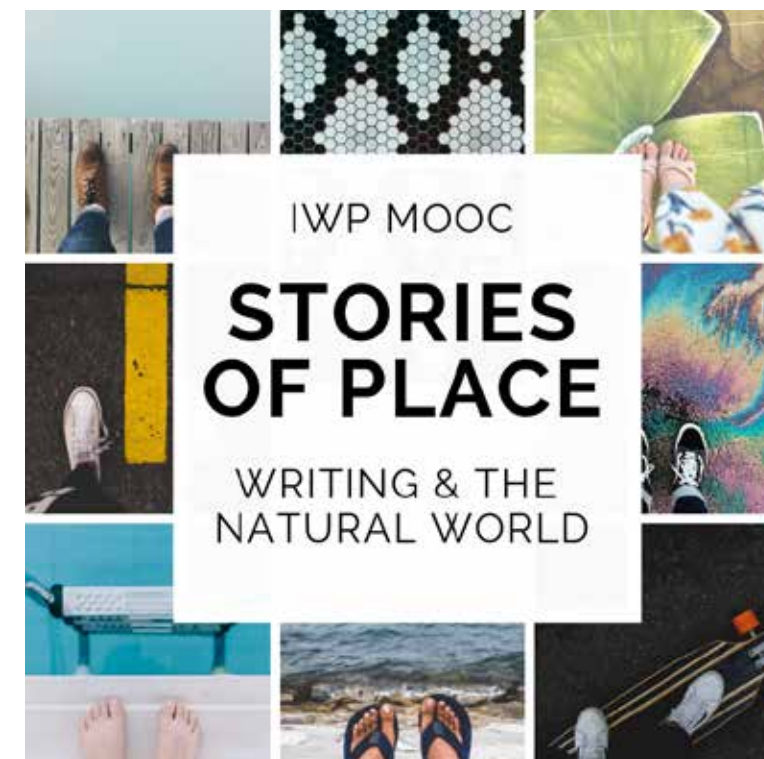
conversational interviews with them via IWP's Origins podcast (listen wherever you get your podcasts!); and video craft talks with them all come together to make diverse voices heard.

In 2018, DL also participated in two local outreach efforts: a discussion of MOOCs and digital education with a group of six delegates brought to Iowa City by the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, and a session of the University of Iowa Liberal Arts Behind Bars (UI LABB) initiative. – *Pamela Marston, IWP Digital Learning Coordinator*

A few of the writers whose talks on craft and writing practice were included as content and instruction in 2018 DL courses (FR indicates alumni of the IWP Fall Residency):

Ubah Cristina Ali Farah (FR 2017) is a Somali-Italian poet, novelist, playwright, and oral performer who has published stories and poems in several anthologies, and won the Lingua Madre National Literary Prize in 2006.

Janine di Giovanni is an author, foreign correspondent, and current Edward R. Murrow Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.



19,334

Participants in
2018 IWP MOOCs

Obari Gomba (FR 2016) teaches Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and is a two-time winner of both the Best Literary Artist Award and the First Prize for Drama of the English Association of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Ruel Johnson (FR 2016) won the 2012 Guyana Prize for Literature as well as the 2002 Guyana Prize for Literature for best first fiction manuscript and for a collection of short stories.

Rebecca Makkai is on the MFA faculty of Sierra Nevada College and Northwestern University. Her short fiction won a 2017 Pushcart Prize, and was chosen for The Best American Short Stories for four consecutive years.

Charles Monroe-Kane is a Peabody Award-winning journalist as well as a published author of numerous articles and a memoir.

Lines & Spaces



A participant shares his work with the L&S delegation (from far right: Caite Dolan-Leach, Zaina Arafat, & Douglas Manuel) at a writing workshop in Eritrea.

In 2018 the Lines & Spaces (L&S) program embarked on three tours to five countries, supported by grants from the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), the U.S. Embassy in Asmara, and the ECA Collaboratory. In total, L&S delegations met with over 760 local participants who generated almost 600 new pieces of writing in the course of their hands-on writing workshops.

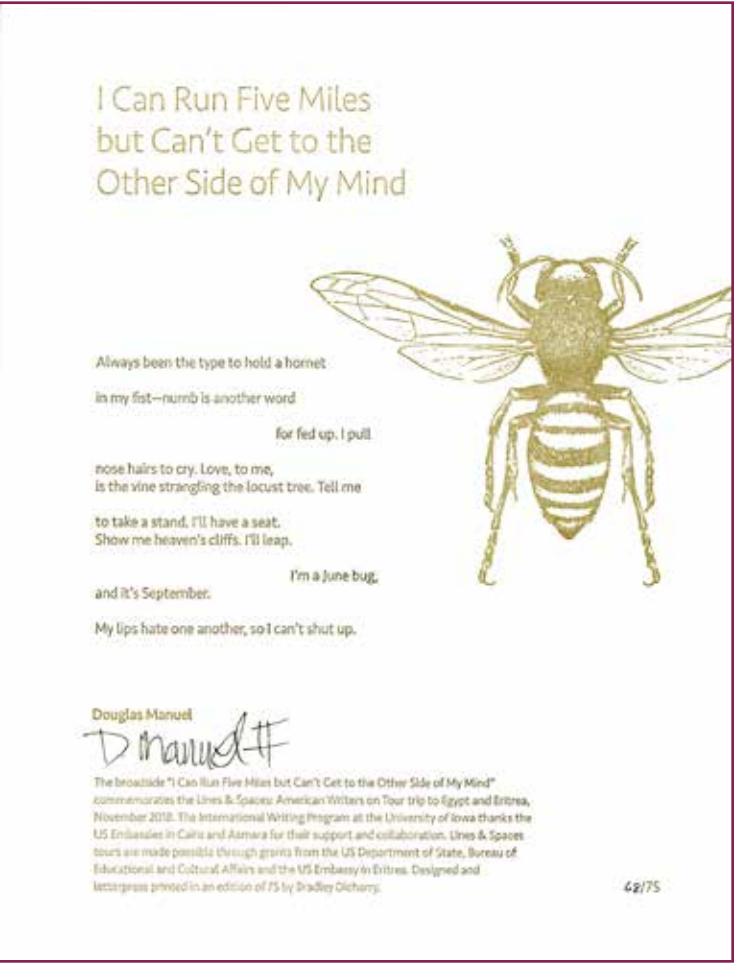
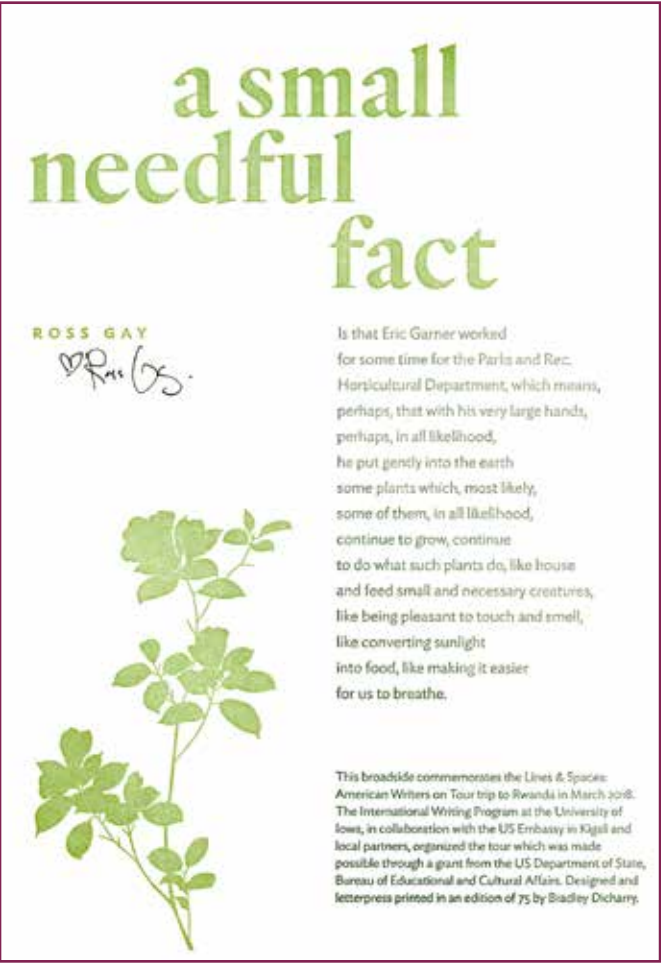
Exciting collaborative events took place during L&S tours in Rwanda, where young basketball players worked on poetry exercises before hitting the courts, and in Colombia, where the delegation worked with dancers to create a cross-discipline performance piece. During their time in Ecuador, the L&S delegation held a joint English/Spanish reading with local writers at the Cuenca International Writers Conference. Conference organizers were thrilled to see the largest local audience they had seen at one of their events. In Eritrea, we held our first-ever extended creative writing workshop with a group of local writers, giving them an opportunity to bring in their own work, and learn how peer-to-peer workshopping can help strengthen their work. The L&S tour to Egypt gave the IWP a chance to catch up with alumni from the Fall Residency and Between the Lines programs, as well as work with local universities, students, and writers. The Lines & Spaces program continues to inspire a new generation of writers while introducing the most interesting American writers to the world. – Kelly Bedeian, L&S Coordinator

760

Local participants in Lines & Spaces Tour countries



The Ecuador/Colombia L&S delegation, from left to right: Emmy Pérez, José A. Rodríguez, Wendy S. Walters, and Christopher Merrill.



Broadsides of poems by L&S delegation members were designed and letterpressed in Iowa City by Bradley Dicharry of the University of Iowa to commemorate each L&S tour, gifted to each location visited.

L&S DELEGATIONS



RWANDA TOUR:

ELIZABETH CRANE is the author of four collections of short stories and two novels. Her work has been translated into several languages, and featured in numerous anthologies and publications, including *Other Voices*, *Guernica*, *LitHub*, *Chicago Magazine*, and *The Believer*. Crane’s stories have been featured on NPR’s Selected Shorts; she is a recipient of the Chicago Public Library 21st Century Award. Her work has been adapted for the stage by Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theater Company; *We Only Know So Much* was adapted to a feature film in 2018. She teaches in the UCR-Palm Desert low-residency MFA program.



GERALD LYN EARLY is the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, and professor of English and African and African American studies at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. The founding director of the university’s Humanities center, he is currently the chair of the African and African American Studies Department. Twice nominated for Grammy Awards, he also served as a consultant on Ken Burns’s documentary films *Baseball*, *Jazz*, *Unforgivable Blackness*, *Jackie Robinson*, and *The War*. His essays have appeared in numerous editions of *Best American Essays*; his most recent book is *The Cambridge Companion to Boxing* (2018).



ROSS GAY, who teaches at Indiana University, is the author of *Against Which*, *Bringing the Shovel Down*, and *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, among many other honors. A founding co-editor of the sports magazine *Some Call it Ballin’*, and an editor at the chapbook presses Q Avenue and Ledge Mule Press, Ross is also a founding member of the Bloomington Community Orchard, a non-profit food justice and joy project. He has received fellowships from Cave Canem, the Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference, and the Guggenheim Foundation.



WAYNE SLAPPY, at age 22 in 1974, became the youngest head basketball coach in the history of his alma mater, Weequahic High School; subsequently he taught in the Newark public school system for nineteen years. He has been associated with the Five-Star Basketball Camp network of coaches ever since he coached Michael Jordan there; after moving to Los Angeles, Wayne has provided skills training and advice to a host of professional athletes who have played or currently are on NBA rosters. He has also helped hundreds of high school athletes gain collegiate scholarships.

2018 L&S TOURS:

Rwanda: March

Ecuador & Colombia: May/June

Egypt & Eritrea: Nov./Dec.

IWP staff on L&S Tours:
Christopher Merrill, IWP Director

Kelly Bedeian, L&S Coordinator

Coach Wayne Slappy (far left) works with youth from Kimisagara, Rwanda, on and off the courts.



ECUADOR & COLOMBIA TOUR:



JOSÉ ANTONIO RODRÍGUEZ, born in Mexico and raised in Texas, is the author of the memoir *House Built on Ashes* and poetry collections *The Shallow End of Sleep* and *Backlit Hour*. His awards include the Bob Bush Memorial Award, the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, and the Clifford D. Clark Doctoral Fellowship from Binghamton University, where he earned a PhD in English and Creative Writing. He is a member of Macondo Writers’ Workshop and CantoMundo. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *POETRY*, the Poetry Society of America online, and elsewhere. He teaches at University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.



EMMY PÉREZ is the author of the poetry collections *With the River on Our Face* and *Solstice*. Widely anthologized, she is the recipient of a 2017 NEA poetry fellowship and awards from CantoMundo, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the San Francisco Foundation/James D. Phelan Award. Since 2008, she has been a member of the Macondo Writers’ Workshop for socially engaged writers. She is an associate professor of Creative Writing and affiliate faculty in Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.



WENDY S. WALTERS is the author of a book of prose, *Multiply/Divide: On the American Real and Surreal*, and two books of poems, *Troy, Michigan* and *Longer I Wait, More You Love Me*. A founding director of Essay in Public | A Humanities Project, and a contributing editor at *The Iowa Review*, she serves on the board of NonfictionNOW. Her essays have appeared in *The Normal School*, *Harper's*, and elsewhere; her lyrical work (with composer Derek Bermel) has been performed widely. Walters is Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Art and Design History and Theory at The New School and Parsons School of Design.

EGYPT & ERITREA TOUR:



ZAINA ARAFAT, a Palestinian-American writer, has had stories and essays appear in *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *The Believer*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, BuzzFeed, VICE, NPR, and elsewhere. A novel and an essay collection are forthcoming. A recipient of the 2018 Arab Women/Migrants from the Middle East fellowship, she was also a Muslim Communities coordinator at the Asian American Writers Workshop, where she curated a portfolio of work responding to the travel ban. She holds an MA in International Affairs from Columbia University, and an MFA from the UI. She lives in Brooklyn.



CAITE DOLAN-LEACH is the author of *Dead Letters* and *We Went to the Woods*, and the co-translator of two novels, *Orphans* and *Newspaper*, from French. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Nylon*, *Music and Literature*, and *The Quarterly Conversation*; her novel has been a Book of the Month Book of the Year nominee, a Publisher's Weekly Writers to Watch selection, and translated into four languages. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin and holding an MA in Cultural Translation from the American University in Paris, Caite lives in Iowa City.



DOUGLAS MANUEL received a BA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University, an MFA from Butler University, and is pursuing a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing at University of Southern California. His poems are featured on Poetry Foundation's website, and have appeared or are forthcoming in *Poetry Northwest*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Superstition Review*, *Rhino*, *North American Review*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *New Orleans Review*, and elsewhere. He has also served as the poetry editor for Gold Line Press. His first collection, *Testify*, won the 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award for poetry.

PROGRAM
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The IWP can only continue its activities thanks to the ongoing support of the University of Iowa, as well as federal, state, community, and individual funding sources. We would like to acknowledge our profound debt to the individuals, entities, and institutions listed below.

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Midwest Writing Center (IA)

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (LA)

Poets’ House (NY)

Portland Stage Company (ME)

Public Space One (IA)

Seattle University (WA)

University of New Orleans (LA)

The Witching Hour Festival (IA)

Foundations, Educational, & Cultural Institutions:

Arts Council Korea, Seoul, South Korea

Creative New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, Cedar Rapids, IA

The Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Visiting Professorships Program

The Max Kade Foundation, New York, NY

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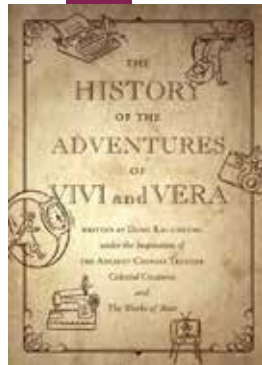
Downing Thomas, U.S.

Etienne Van Heerden, South Africa

Eliot Weinberger, U.S.

THIS YEAR'S BOOKSHELF

A SELECTION OF 2017-8 TITLES BY IWP ALUMNI



THE HISTORY OF THE ADVENTURES OF VIVI AND VERA by DUNG KAI-CHEUNG

Novelist, essayist, and scholar Dung Kai-cheung (Hong Kong, IWP Fall Resident '09) tells two stories in *The History of the Adventures of Vivi and Vera*: “One of a novelist who recounts his family’s history against the backdrop of Hong Kong’s development from the 1930s to the 1990s, building his story through vignettes about the protagonist’s relationship with technological inventions that shaped his life, as glimpsed through his uncertain memory and family myths. Running parallel to this is a rebellion by the novelist’s oppressed fictional characters, who attempt to break the yoke of servile obedience laid upon them by the conventions of novel-writing. The central character, Vivi, has been written into being by the author but, once created, takes a life of her own.” – BooksActually

(Translated from the Chinese by Wai Ping Yau. Hong Kong University Press, 2018)



TROL by MICHAL HVORECKÝ

Trol, by the Slovak journalist, translator, and novelist Michal Hvorecký (Slovakia, IWP Fall Resident '04) is set in eastern Europe in a near future: the European Union has collapsed, and is replaced by Fortress Europe. The antagonist it now faces is a dictatorship in whose realm public opinion is fully managed by an army of internet trolls. One of them, the unnamed protagonist, gripped by ever stronger doubts, attempts to destroy the System from within, together with an ally. The effort pushes them into freefall inside the network—and to the far edge of their trust in each other. – Translated from the German publisher Klett-Cotta’s website

(In Slovak and German. Bratislava: Marenčin Publishers, 2017)



NEGATIVE SPACE by LULJETA LLESHANAKU

In *Negative Space*, her third collection of poems published in the U.S., Luljeta Lleshanaku (Albania, IWP Fall Resident '99) “searches for answers to... the existential and historical ‘why.’ One may read this collection as a poetry of witness, as Lleshanaku seeks to understand significant moments of recent Albanian history through the lens of her family’s experiences. However, the poet complicates the act of witnessing by refusing to denounce those responsible for atrocities [and] instead focuses on poetry’s ability to help people come to terms with trauma. The opening poem... recalls the narrator as a 12-year-old girl watching her parents return from making love in the barn, ‘looking around in fear / like two thieves.’ Familiarity with fear and deprivation mean that her empathetic, if deliberately inattentive, eye will retain these memories over the decades: ‘You cannot easily forget what you watch with one closed eye— / the death of the hero in the film, / or your first eclipse of the sun.’” – Viktor Berberi, *Poetry Foundation*

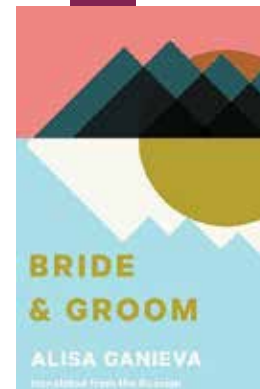
(Translated from the Albanian by Ani Gjika. New York: New Directions, 2018)



ZOT ANI, IOWA by GALIT DAHAN CARLIBACH

Zot ani, Iowa [It’s Me, Iowa] is a slim “memoir” of Galit Dahan Carlibach’s (Israel) 2016 Fall Residency at the IWP, “during which she underwent a complete mental breakdown, commencing an affair with a local musician before murdering him and dumping his body in the Mississippi. That is, it’s not an actual memoir at all but a very dark comedy taking wild fictional liberties in Philip Roth fashion with the happily married (and not homicidal) writer’s real-life 2016 stint at the Iowa program.” – *Jewish Review of Books*, Fall 2018

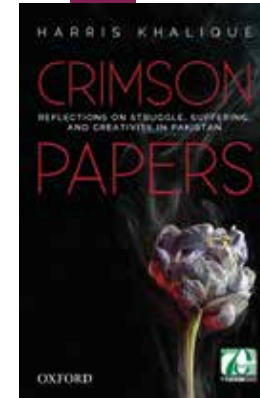
(In Hebrew. Tel Aviv: Graff, 2018)



BRIDE AND GROOM by ALISA GANIEVA

Bride and Groom, the new novel by IWP veteran Alisa Ganieva (Russia, IWP Fall Resident '12, '18; Between the Lines Instructor '15-'17; “To What Do I Belong” Conference '17) “...seems to promise a traditional marriage story. Her main characters, a young man and woman who have each returned home from Moscow to ‘an outlying settlement’ near a big city in Dagestan, and face pressure from their respective families to find a suitable match, seem to be playing stock parts familiar from romantic comedies... But ultimately this is a tenser, sadder tale that underscores the horror and despair of post-Soviet life. Ganieva immerses us in a world where corruption and violence are so widespread and legal protections so meaningless that even love at first sight cannot guarantee a happy ending.” – Emily Johnson, *World Literature Today*

(Translated from the Russian by Carol Apollonio. Huston, Texas: Deep Vellum, 2017)



CRIMSON PAPERS: REFLECTIONS ON STRUGGLE, SUFFERING, AND CREATIVITY IN PAKISTAN by HARRIS KHALIQUE

In *Crimson Papers: Reflections on Struggle, Suffering, and Creativity in Pakistan*, a collection of four essays entitled “Blood,” “Sweat,” “Tears,” and “Ink,” Harris Khalique (Pakistan, IWP Fall Resident '15; “To What Do I Belong” Conference '17) “elaborate(s) on what has happened to Pakistani citizens’ rights to a dignified physical space to live, a respectable economic space to earn a decent living, a free intellectual space to think, and an uninhibited artistic space to create.” – Anwar Shaheen, The Free Library

(Oxford University Press, 2018)



BEFORE SHE SLEEPS by BINA SHAH

Pakistani novelist, journalist, and blogger Bina Shah (Pakistan, IWP Fall Resident '11) has written *Before She Sleeps*, “a book that is in explicit conversation with *The Handmaid’s Tale*, and though Shah’s society is emphatically secular, situating her narrative in a predominantly Muslim area of the world is an overdue enlargement of the cultural conversation that Atwood’s novel continues to provoke. But Shah’s novel, which blends the spy genre and soap opera with speculative fiction, isn’t really the feminist dystopia one might expect.” – *Kirkus Review*

(New York: Delphinium/Harper Collins, 2018)

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